

STREET FAIR & PARADE
MAY 21

GRAPEVINE

VISITACION VALLEY

VOL III, NO 3

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

MARCH 1988

Cocaine trafficking blamed for recent outburst of violence

by Karen Boswell

Attacks on Muni buses in Visitacion Valley and other areas of the city escalated in February. The 15 Third Street line withstood several rock peltings and one gun attack.

Police began escorting the buses on February 10. Guardian Angels from the San Francisco chapter began riding the evening buses as independent patrols on February 16.

Muni spokesman Alan Segal suggested that violence has intensified because there are "people with time on their hands." Attacks of this magnitude haven't happened in San Francisco for a decade. These current aggressions are, according to Segal, more brutal than those similar incidents which occurred in North Beach some years ago.

Are these kids just testing their limits as some stoical Muni drivers suggest? Several drivers interviewed philosophically speculated that the outbursts will soon die out. But as Segal pointed out, many Muni drivers not only travel through areas where assaults have taken place, but also live in these areas. "They are concerned for their own safety as well as for the safety of their passengers."

When Segal says Muni has been trying to contact community

leaders, he echoes Capt. Frank Reed of the Potrero Police Station. "Strictly a police response is not coming up with answers," says Capt. Reed. "We want people who understand the problems behind the attacks to help."

According to Capt. Reed, drug trafficking has increased, and the number of police officers has been increased in Visitacion Valley. "Not only buses, but private people and their vehicles have been targeted," he says.

"I wish there was a police station right there!" asserts Gene Fudge. He is pointing to the corner of Sunnysdale and Hahn Streets. Fudge owns a home half a block away at Sawyer and Sunnysdale. He is glad that the police patrol cars circle the block regularly.

Some local merchants offer additional insight. Jack Creighton owner of the Leland Ave. Pharmacy likens this to times of prohibition when young persons were used to act as carriers of alcohol for the bosses. "This time it's cocaine, and if you want to attract a crowd, bring in a camera," he says. Creighton also focuses on the fear of retaliation which prevents many people from reporting crimes, and, thus, distorts the true picture of Visitacion Valley.

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The venom letters that weren't

by Gerry L. Galvan

What initially was suspected as an hate campaign through the mail by anonymous letter writers against some Woodrow Wilson high school teachers and administrators identified with the minority has been dismissed as an "overblown" media blitz.

Any ruffled feeling or animosity brought about by the "rash" of unsigned letters is now a thing of the past and the atmosphere at the school has been truly congenial.

Nonetheless, the problem pointed out in the anonymous letters is either contained and poses no immediate eruption, or has been a spreading social cancer that SFUSD and the Board of Education at 135 Van Ness must look seriously into - depending on whom one talks to at Wilson.

Mrs. Elvira Dundy, principal of Wilson, told your reporter that, notwithstanding the 12 - more or less - unsigned letters sent to the homes of Black and Hispanic (and one Filipino) educators, the atmosphere at the school is normal.

"This is a simple case of misunderstanding among some members of Wilson staff which a number of San Francisco metropolitan newspapers picked up and developed into a

sensational story," Mrs. Dundy said in an interview with the GRAPEVINE. Herself in the minority, Mrs. Dundy invited interested parties "to come and witness for yourselves whether or not there exists bad blood among administrators and teachers."

Mrs. Dundy challenged the media in San Francisco, most particularly the San Francisco Chronicle which broke the story in its Feb 3, 1988 issue, to use more restraint and professional common sense in reporting so-called problems and issues in the area.

It appears that the letters in question were received in the homes of Wilson mentors between the latter part of October and early part of November last year. Some were mailed directly to the school on Mansell Drive.

Exact content of the letters were not revealed and Mrs. Dundy refused to identify the recipients' personality profiles. By the same token, she strongly denied assumption that the letterwriters' profile and background have been established. "It is possible that we will never find out who was or were responsible for this cowardly act," Mrs. Dundy said.

Mrs. Dundy would not agree to a request for a look of the "hate letters." She said SFUSD has

St. Mary's new respite program opens

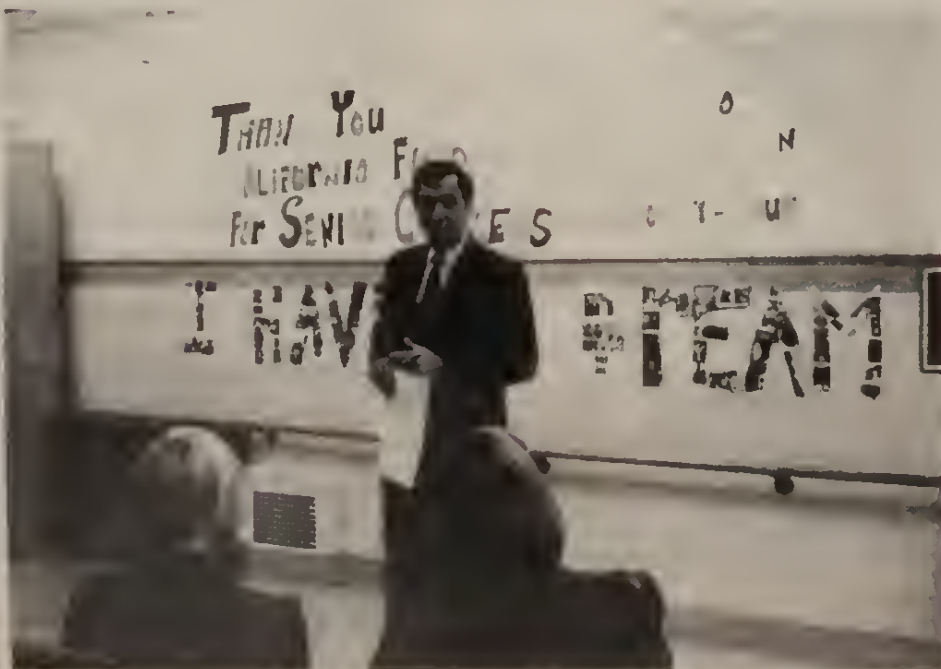
A new Saturday Respite Program for patients with Alzheimer's Disease and other dementing illnesses was recently announced by St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center's Adult Day Health Care Center at 35 Onondaga Avenue.

In co-sponsorship with Catholic Charities and St. Joseph's Health Services, St. Mary's Adult Day Health Care recognizes the stress and other caregivers endure when they are providing care to a loved one who is not in control of him/herself. As a result, the California Fund for Senior Citizens granted the funds to provide a safe, caring environment for people who suffer these debilitating illnesses.

on the founding legislation committee for this appropriation, was present at the official opening ceremony recently. Every Saturday caregivers can take the hours between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. off to do whatever they please.

To make arrangements for this service which is provided on a sliding-fee scale, call St. Mary's Adult Day Health Care at 334-4000 and ask for Coleman Wong, MSW, LCSW, the social worker in charge.

If you are in favor of this type of legislation and these services for our frail elderly, you can contribute to "The California Fund for Senior Citizens" by completing Line 44 of your California State Income Tax forms to allot additional tax money or a portion of your tax refunds to this fund. (See ad titled "Don't Grow Older Unless" on this page.



Mayor Art Agnos at adult day health center on Onondaga Street

Mayor Art Agnos, who served

CENTERVOICE

ANNIVERSARY

by Julia A. Kavanagh

On March 14th, VVCC will be 70 years old. We plan a busy and fruitful Anniversary year. On March 12th, the season will kick off with the premiere of our Theatre Works 1988 season. "The Fisherman" will be performed for an audience of Center members. There will be subsequent performances for the general public, including performances at other sites around the Valley.

The Florence Friedman Memorial Fund Advisory Committee will host a dinner on the same evening for their members and guests, and there will be an expanded Salvation Army Luncheon for Seniors along with the entertainment.

We have already begun to plan for our 4th Annual Street Fair, Parade and Art Festival, which will be held Saturday, May 21st, 1988. It is expected to be bigger and better than ever. This is a chance for EVERYONE to get involved in celebrating our neighborhood. Now is the time to join the fun! We need a Spruce-up Committee to keep the Valley looking its best. We need help on all the Fair Committees: Art Show, Parade, Street Fair, Prize Solicitation, Games Committee, Entertainment Committee, set-up, clean-up, etc. For information, call the Center at 467-6400, and you will be put in touch with the Committee you choose. THIS IS THE CHANCE TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT, contrary to some rather "public opinions", THIS IS STILL THE VALLEY OF THE GOOD NEIGHBOR. An event like the

FAIR, with everybody pitching in could be just the ticket to get us back in focus.

During the summer, we will be having our Annual Picnic. This year, we plan to expand it, and have invited United Way and the Recreation & Parks Department to join us in planning an expanded picnic for the whole Valley. They are also celebrating Anniversary years... United Way is 100 years old, and McLaren Park was 50 years old in 1987. There will be a need for Committee help on this one as well.

The VVCC Board of Directors will be finalizing their long term planning document during this year also. This will give the Center a good look at, and a plan for entering the next five years (and beyond). Many of you have already participated in this by filling out one of the survey forms that we've circulated the past two years, and by attending the planning meetings held during this period. All the information you contributed during this process is not being put together in a planning document, which will then be presented to the Board for their adoption and implementation. During the time after the adoption of the plan, the Board will review and add to the plan annually.

This is just the beginning of our very active year. We hope you will join us, and become active.. for the sake of the children, youth, parents, seniors, and all residents of THE VALLEY OF THE GOOD NEIGHBOR.

Letter to the Editor

You too can "Say No To Drugs." Here's how

Dear Editor:

The Visitation Valley Community JUST SAY NO TO DRUGS CLUB is now recruiting youths from the ages of seven to fourteen. We are encouraging all youth to join and learn how to be part of a DRUG FREE GENERATION. Club members take part in exciting, recreational, and service activities. They will learn the three steps to saying no to drugs. It is a simple technique for resisting pressure. Members will then carry the JUST SAY NO message into the school and community encouraging their classmates and friends to join them in their commitment to lead drug free lives. They know that together, they can make a positive difference. For more information call the JUST SAY NO TO DRUGS CLUB leaders: Elder and Mrs. Godfrey.

We thank you in advance for your gratitude and for understanding that the children of today are part of the generation of tomorrow. My helping children to say no to drugs, we can take a vital part in shaping a better, positive, attitude for our youths.

For more information please call 586--0860. For date, meeting place, and time.

Sincerely,
Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey
JUST SAY NO CLUB LEADERS

Kids take heed from a friend

Editor:

What probably started out as a prank has turned into a very dangerous situation for the youth of our Valley. I wonder if they realize that they are becoming victims of their own joke, and that it is no longer a joke?

We have read in the newspaper this past week about rock throwing around MUNI buses and the tragic death of Potrero Hill's Tony Grohse on the same page. Newswriters, in attempting to "explain" these events have tied them together with the "drug Problem." This may or may not be so. I don't know how .. or whether .. these things can be connected.

The important thing, in my personal opinion, is that our kids are now TARGETS of violence. Further news stories may only serve to escalate this feeling in the public's opinion and increase the danger to our kids. It has to stop.

KIDS .. just let it be! You are the ones who can save yourselves .. BY REFUSING TO BE TARGETS! Stop throwing rocks and writing you names on walls. Take yourselves out of the spotlight. Lay low! Haven't you lost enough of your friends to guns, drugs and jail? Don't think it can't happen to you; there is no superman! After the funeral, it is ALL over.

Believe it or not, I am
Your Friend
Julie Kavanagh

A vote for the Missouri

Dear Editor:

The need for San Francisco to be the home port for the Missouri is much greater than anticipated.

Adding prestige to San Francisco will not only encourage young residents of the Pacific Coast to join the navy, but also will create many thousands of needed jobs and create tremendous money income to our city for years to come.

Because of the loud voice of the activists, with their miscalculations, they have darkened the issue as well as making our Mayor Art Agnos the scapegoat and San Francisco the loser.

May I also say that if this letter appears in our San Francisco papers, that the 80% of San Francisco that want the Missouri here will write to you to ask you to reconsider and make San Francisco the home port for the Battleship Missouri.

I am hoping the U.S. Navy will make the final decision which will be to the benefit of our country, our Navy, and surely San Francisco.

Sincerely,
Henry Schindler
President Visitation Valley Improvement Association

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GRAPEVINE

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STREET FAIR & PARADE



MAY 21

Neighborhood Notes

by Anne Kaartunen

With the recent "media" preponderance of negative publicity regarding "happenings in our community, I feel compelled to dedicate this column to the positive aspects of our community.

Congratulations to the Vis. Valley Middle School for receiving a \$1,000. grant from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. to be used for their Gym Mural Club. Sixty students are painting a sports mural on the gym wall under the direction of Muralist, Jo Tucker. Plans are being made for a dedication ceremony in May. Many of these students will participate in an intergenerational mural at the Community Center in the late spring.

THANK YOU to Cathy Kilne of Grubb & Ellis Realty, for a \$200. donation to sponsor one of the panels of the proposed Community Center Mural (starting late Spring).

Neighborhood Watch/Project Safe will meet March 1st, at 7 p.m. at the Vis Valley Park & Rec building to learn about coping with and preventing HOME BURGLARIES.

WISH LIST: The Middle School needs a Videocam for their Video Club. This is a Club that teaches kids to write and develop stories/plays and to make their own films. A positive program which helps to use kids "free time" and thereby keep them out of trouble. This school also is looking for musical instruments (any sitting around in your basement or closet?) Why not donate/negotiate fair price and revive the "sounds of music." Contact: Mr. Calloway at 239-6550

The BANANA SLUG BAND will be "slipping" into Vis Valley Elementary School, helping to celebrate ARBOR DAY, MARCH 7th, 1 p.m.. Students will be dedicating their new school garden, by planting trees.

SUGGESTIONS/CHALLENGES

To the City: Enforce Curfew Law! Pick up all youngsters outside from 10:00 p.m. on.
To S.F.U.S.D.: Hire Security (day & night) for Vis Valley Middle School. Daily chained locked doors at this school is a high safety issue and concern! Teachers and students are at risk

in case of fire. Especially after 3:30p.m.. The only exit from the building is if you have an elevator key! The cost of requested security will be much less than lost lives.

To S.F. Park & Rec: The after school, p.m., gymnasium program director at Vis Valley Middle School needs to have a phone available for emergencies (why not install a pay phone in equipment room?). Lights are needed on the stairs, to and from the gym. I've been there and it is not safe.

To the Community At Large: We hear a lot, we see a lot, and many of us are discouraged, dismayed. You Can Do Something About It ... Anonymously. Just take the time to call the SFPD at this special number 553-8090. This number is answered as quickly as the 911 emergency line, how ever they do not receive a display of your address or phone number.

TOGETHER,
WE CAN
BUILD OUR
COMMUNITY
ANew AND
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Cocaine

Continued from Page 1

Fawzi Kaddoura, owner of the Valley Supermarket and President of the V.V. Merchants Association, feels the attacks show the "frustration of youth." "These kids," Kaddoura insists, "are responding to the challenge of this society and taking it out on the neighborhood."

"It's serious," claims Henry Schindel, whose real estate office is located at Alpha and Leland Avenue. "The gangs are just letting off steam," Schindel says, "but it's unfair because we in the Valley are suffering from it." Schindel maintains the bad publicity is hurting Visitacion Valley. He feels that police in unmarked cars would be better. The police assured him that Vis Valley will get all the help they need from them.



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NEW SPORTS PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AND ADULTS ANNOUNCED

Basketball, baseball, youth clubs are offered to all young people under 16 years of age in Visitacion Valley. If you are a 6'3" or under adult, there is also basketball for you.

Vernon Long, activities director, informed the GRAPEVINE of the following sports programs:

Youth, ages 16 and under, 3 man hunch tournaments
6'3" and under adult 3 man hunch tournaments
Long Shots Youth Club
Baseball with Park & Rec, PAL and FLAME teams

If you are interested in any of the above, check with Vernon Long at 239-9873 or 586-4882 or sign up at Visitacion Valley Playground, Geneva Towers, Herz Playground or Visitacion Valley Middle School Gym (M-F; 6-9 p.m.).

You can also sign up for the baseball programs with San Francisco Park & Recreation Programs, Police Athletic League and FLAME of the San Francisco Fire Department.

The cooperative goal of all these programs is to be available to all young people under 16 years of age - so that no child will be left out.

The Long Shots Youth Club is open to any child 16 years or under in Visitacion Valley. Membership in the club is required before a young person is eligible to participate in summer field trips.

Sports, summer fun, and new friends are only some of the advantages you kids might receive by participating in these exciting activities.

Remember - give Vernon Long a call at 239-9873 or 586-4882 to set yourself up for a great time after school and through the summer.

Little Hollywood Reports Phase two

by Don Bartone

After a two year delay we are finally getting underway with the second construction phase of our park. The upper half of the park land was never completed when the original park went in. When it's finished there will be picnic tables and barbeque grills with a paved walkway around the entire perimeter. There is also going to be a new grassy area in the middle with lots of trees and bushes planted everywhere. The plans called for only a small sidewalk on the Tocoloma side, but after we talked to the Park and Recreation Dept. everybody agreed that it would be much better to have a full sidewalk leading up to the main gate. special thanks to John Pons, Joe Timenere, Tim Liliquist, Ron De Leon and others that we don't

know about but were instrumental in working with us throughout the years, and a very special thanks to the late Clarence Fleming who had the foresight to see the need for this park and devoted countless hours working toward that end.

Little Hollywood Association has room on Board for interested volunteers.

Brinks Armored Car Service is planning to move some of their operations to the lot behind the Korean Presbyterian Church (our meeting place) and they will be sending a representative to speak to us about that subject. The lot and buildings are owned by the City but are currently leased to CECO which is in the concrete construction business. They plan to store their trucks and money at this site. Questions or objections can be made at the meeting so that we can see if it will fit in with our neighborhood.

EDITORIAL The Good, The Bad, The Ugly --And The Beautiful! Visitacion Valley

San Francisco media: television, press and radio, recently have been laying a pretty heavy trip on Visitacion Valley. Even this paper, the Visitacion Valley GRAPEVINE, has been printing some pretty damning essays about crime, violence and a general feeling of fear which seems to permeate this valley of ours.

How true is this assessment? As I drive through Visitacion Valley streets, shop on Leland Avenue for bakery goods, groceries, dry cleaning or lunch, I must confess that I do not feel threatened.

I know that it is not wise to shop at the market on Sunnydale and Hahn, and I might feel uncomfortable walking around Geneva Towers - and I certainly wouldn't leave my car unlocked or without an alarm system anywhere - Anywhere in San Francisco.

What is the truth about our Valley? The truth is that it is violent, frightening, sometimes seemingly out of control; however, day-to-day for more than a hundred years, decent, law-abiding, loving, caring people have lived and raised their children in this valley and they are still doing just that.

A relatively few "bad apples" are spoiling our orchard. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? IT IS OUR PROBLEM, AND UNLESS WE, THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN

VISITACION VALLEY CARE ENOUGH TO CHANGE THINGS, IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN.

In the past several years we have seen many things happen which are positive examples of the way things can be:

The Visitacion Valley GRAPEVINE was begun through a grant from the San Francisco Foundation which recognized first the value of our community and second how they might help us gain our potential;

Members of our community: Anne Kaartunen, Toussaint Sreat, M.D., Vernon Long, and others were recognized for their contributions to our health and welfare;

San Francisco Alive with Mayor Feinstein helped us clean up our Valley by painting out graffiti, washing streets, cleaning up vacant lots while they helped us staff our parks and recreation programs;

Murals depicting the rich culture of the Valley were painted on prominent walls at the elementary school and library. A new mural is in process at VV Middle School;

New programs for kids and seniors were begun;

Community activism was revitalized by street fairs, parades and contests such as the poster and essay contests in the schools;

Stop signs, a beat patrol officer, community-wide clean-up of abandoned cars and trash were accomplished.

These last few years in Visitacion Valley have been productive, uplifting and economically sound judging from the numbers of new businesses which have opened recently.

NOW, despite all the positive changes community people have wrought, the San Francisco media has targeted Visitacion Valley as a

What's Doing in the Parks

Baseball ump's sought

The newly formed Citywide Recreation and Park, FLAME, P.A.L. baseball league for youth is looking for new umpires. An orientation meeting will be held Tuesday March 8, 7 p.m. at Gilheaney Gym, 845 Vienna Street near Geneva Avenue.

Candidates should be at least high school age. Regulation and rule training will be provided. Successful applicants will be paid per game worked.

For further information, call Roger Bross at 586-9600 or 333-8676 or John Le Toumeau at 558-4056.

Free performance scheduled Theater treat for kids

Through the Eyes of a Child, a performing arts series for children, will present the Hamstead Players in a free stage play for youth, "Treasure Island." The performance will take place Saturday, March 12, 2 p.m. at St. Mary's Recreation Center, Murray Street and Justin Drive.

For further information contact Nancy Rose at 558-3132.



Symphony for music lovers

The San Francisco Recreation Symphony will perform a free concert Sunday, March 13, 2 p.m. at the Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street.

Selections include Beethoven's Egmont Overture, Dvorak Symphony #4 and Devienne Flute Concerto featuring Gail Edwards' as flute soloist. Conductor is Karla Lemon.

For more information, call 359-4604.

Coed Volleyball, 9 years & up, free, Portola Recreation Center, Felton & Holyoke Streets Friday, March 10, 3:30 - 5 p.m..

hot bed of drug related crime and violence against Muni, the SFPD and law-abiding citizens.

I ask you - are the latest stories in the press accurate descriptions of your neighborhood - your community?

What do you have to say about the neighborhood in which you live or work? The GRAPEVINE wants to hear your opinions, your solutions, your history. Write us at Visitacion Valley GRAPEVINE, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco 94134. Tell us like it is.

Pat Christensen

GRAPEVINE FEBRUARY
DRAWING WINNER:

ELLEN BALDWIN

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Maxicare - Vis Valley's only health care service

by Karen Boswell

Visitation Valley's only health care center, Maxicare, treats the whole person and the whole family. Located at 141 Leland Ave., Maxicare's services include general health care, obstetrics, gynecology, well-child care (immunizations, newborn care, children and adolescents, etc.), family planning (birth control, treatment of skin problems, and help for the chronically ill, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis, and heart disease.

Dr. Toussaint Streat is a family physician at the clinic. "As long as it's within our power, we take care of everything," says Dr. Streat. His training is "way beyond the old general practitioner", with "hard-core, high tech" additions: 3-4 years beyond internship covering the aforementioned specialties.

Nurse Practitioner Jacquelin Wasserman holds a Masters Degree in Nursing with advanced training in health assessment, health education, and disease prevention. Wasserman treats common health problems and does most of the gynecology. "I love having several generations of a family come in," says Wasserman. Then I'm seeing the person in the context of their family and that is important."

Maxicare (the building still bears the sign "HealthAmerica") is the second largest Health Maintenance Organization in the U.S. Kaiser - Permanente is the largest.

Harold S. Luft, Ph.D., a professor of health economics at U.C.S.F., says H.M.O.s "may be a different way of paying for medical care, but may not be a different way of dispensing medical care." So while the H.M.O. is a business, all three San Francisco Maxicare's try to stay personalized and maintain their smallness.

Dr. Streat emphasizes, "This is the only way I want to practice medicine in a small, closed-in community with many old, intact families, but which includes a cross-section of other family types."

Visitation Valley was declared the most medically underserved area of San Francisco in a 1980 survey by S.F. General Hospital. There were no doctors practicing here then! The Leland Ave. facility was built in 1960 by a successful Vis Valley doctor, but closed a dozen years later when the market couldn't support it.

In 1981 Dr. Sam Ho and Dr. Streat formed the S.F. Family Health Programs, Inc. on the site. Dr. Ho received a Daniel E. Koshland Award in Civic Unity in 1985 for his efforts, and Dr. Streat received special project recognition.

Federal and State policies cut budgets for such projects, and H.M.O. HealthAmerica/Rockridge purchased it. Maxicare stepped in in 1986. Dr. Ho is now medical director of Maxicare in Northern California, but is still a member of the Visitation Valley office.

You do not have to be a member to go to Maxicare. While about 70% of the patients are on Medical, other kinds of insurance are accepted as is cash. They see Medicare patients, but only under certain conditions. Call their office for specific eligibility specifications.

The main health problems in Visitation Valley are teen pregnancy, drug abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and chronic illnesses like high blood pressure and liver disease. Dr. Streat and nurse Wasserman can, if necessary, admit you to a hospital through Maxicare and treat you there. They can also refer you to a specialist. One-to-one counselling is available for pregnant teens or victims of abuse. Classes include prenatal care, stop smoking, sports medicine, safety in the home, nutrition emphasising low cholesterol/low fat diets, "female problems," breast self-exam, safe sex, and sexually transmitted diseases. Only under emergency conditions, however, will Dr. Streat make house calls.

For more information including Maxicare's hours call 334-3300.

"Heart Attack and Stroke: Signals and Action" available free!

You won't see any flashing red lights before suffering a heart attack or stroke, but your body probably will send you a warning. Many people ignore the message until it's too late. According to the American Heart Association, more than 300,000 people a year die of heart attack before they reach the hospital.

To help you learn how to interpret the signals your body sends you, the American Heart Association has a new pamphlet, "Heart Attack and Stroke: Signals and Action." This Pamphlet presents a brief explanation of how to recognize the warning signs of a heart attack and stroke and what your immediate response should be to either of these life threatening situations.

For your free copy of "Heart Attack and Stroke: Signals and Action," send a self addressed stamped, business size envelope to: American Heart Association, San Francisco Chapter, 421 Powell Street, San Francisco, California 94102 or call: (415)433-2273.

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THE TAX REFORM ACT OF 1986 AND HOW IT COULD AFFECT YOUR 1987 TAXES

MODIFICATIONS OF THE OLD LAW:

INTEREST ON HOME LOANS — You may deduct the interest paid on a mortgage for your home (an "acquisition debt") on a principal or second home. The new law allows you to deduct interest on up to \$100,000 of acquisition debt. Interest on debt used for other purposes (such as credit cards, car loans, or personal loans) may not be deductible as home mortgage interest, but may be treated as personal interest. This provision applies to 1987 and later loans taken out after August 15, 1986.

PERSONAL INTEREST — The new law allows the deduction of up to 2% of personal interest (which was paid in 1987). Personal interest is the interest paid on credit cards, car loans, or personal loans. The deduction for personal loans is being phased out and will be eliminated by 1991.

STANDARD DEDUCTION — The standard deduction has replaced the zero bracket amount and will be used on the tax return by those who do not itemize deductions. Unlike the zero bracket amount, this deduction is not built into the tax table and it must be calculated for the 1987 tax year. The elderly and the blind have a higher standard deduction.

PROVISIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED

- Credit for political contributions
- The exclusion for dividends
- Deductions for state and local sales taxes
- The 60% exclusion for long term capital gains
- Income averaging
- The deduction for married couples when both work
- Three year cost recovery rule for annuities that start after July 1, 1986
- Extra exemptions for age and blindness, replaced by increased standard deduction
- Partial exclusion of unemployment compensation

UNCHANGED ITEMS

The following provisions are some of the major ones unchanged under the new law: state and local income, real estate, and personal property tax deductions; Keogh deduction; life insurance earnings; child care credit; gains on home sale; and short term losses.

IRS TAX HOTLINES

CALIFORNIA TOLL FREE 1-800-424-1040
SAN FRANCISCO 839-1040

Visitation Valley Community Center

50 Raymond Ave San Francisco 467-6400

- * Family School Program
- * Youth Program
- * Community Garden
- * Food Distribution
- * Theatre Works
- * Senior Activities

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March 12, 1988

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MORE Winners GRAPEVINE Essay Contest

Tell us like it do

My neighborhood is very kind to people. I always see them playing or going out to work, shopping, or just visiting people they know. Some of my neighbors come out and take a walk around our neighborhood because some we retired from work. People say nice things like "Hi," "Good morning," "How are you doing?" and more nice things around my neighborhood. They usually like to smile.

I guess my neighbors like people to visit them over the week-end. Sometime it get boring when my neighbors go out. It is nice to have a safe and nice community.

Chloe

1/14/88

Tell us like it
I like my Neighborhood because I have lots of friends and I have lots of old ladies that care about me. I'm glad of that because they watch over me making sure that nobody hurts me and tries to hurt me. I have friends up and down the block and one lives up the street and around the corner. I walk to school with two girls, Janisha, Jovanna, and her Brothers. I have a store right up the block and I just go and it's not long. My friends move and move back. I live in Visitation District. My Neighborhood has lots of dogs, one time a dog even bit me!

Tell us like it do

My neighborhood has a park where children can play. The park has a basketball court, a tennis court, and a sandbox where little children can play. Sometimes I go out to the park by myself and play alone. It gets boring sometimes when nobody plays with me. But when my brother comes he always teases me about stuff like I got a C, C, C on my work. When I get home I tell my mom how it was. I asked my dad if we could go to the America instead of staying home. I like my neighborhood even though I go to the park by myself.

Tell us like it do

Most of the time my neighborhood is friendly. The people in my neighborhood are nice. They are always helpful. The thing that I don't like about it is the old cars leave on the sidewalk. It makes people leave furniture on the street. That makes my mind hurt and look ugly. But most of the time the streets are clean. When you go down the sidewalks, my neighbors help me and it is good. I like the neighborhood not I love it because it is quiet. There are usually more people in the streets. I like the community I live in.

Tell us like it do

My neighborhood is nice and quiet. I like the brick houses and the houses of the blue houses. There is a number of different colored houses on each side of the street. I like the friendly people around my neighborhood. I like that in my neighborhood I can go to school. Most of the people are nice, old people. I like my neighborhood well in every way.

GRAPESVINE
CANTON VALLEY

In California, Arbor Day is observed on March 7. This date commemorates the birthday of Luther Burbank. Burbank, born March 7, 1849, was known best for his breeding work for improved varieties of flowers, fruits, grains, grasses, vegetables and trees.

Arbor Day honors all trees, those of economic, aesthetic and environmental importance. Since the beginning of time, trees have been the friend of man.

There are some businesses that prey on the vulnerability of the elderly, and the best advice the BBB can offer is "Forewarned is Forearmed."

If you are thinking of moving to a retirement community or subsidized housing, check with the BBB or the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which funds many low to moderate income living centers for elderly or disabled people.

Another distressing and serious decision an older person might be making is a move to a nursing home for self or a loved one. The Better Business Bureau suggests

that before making such a decision be sure to explore alternatives such as Meals on Wheels, adult day health centers, visiting nurse/attendant programs or home health and homemaker services. These are listed in the Yellow Pages of your phone book or call United Way at

Health care is one of the elderly's most pressing problems. Most Americans over 65 are eligible for Social Security benefits as well as Medicare. Medicaid, health clinics, mobile units, dental units and physical therapy units are frequently available from the Department of Public Health. However, older people are often victimized by unscrupulous health quacks who offer "sure cures" for whatever ails you. Be sure to check out any of "quick cure" or "cure all" offers you receive with the BBB before you make any commitments. Hearing aids scams and cut-rate denture firms are common.

The Internal Revenue Service has a free pamphlet entitled, "Tax Benefits for Older Americans." Ask for it. It could save you money.

Older people are frequently victimized by people willing to take their money without delivering the goods. Beware! Check out such services as insurance, work-at-home solicitations, invitations to invest, dating services, and health plans.

Heed this advice - "Ask before acting." Read the fine print in every contract. Get some medical advice before embarking on a health plan. Consult family members and friends before adopting any new lifestyles. Check with business people before parting with your money. AND, above all, ask for the credentials of strangers who volunteer advice while you check them out with the Better Business Bureau at (415) 775-7339.

Watch for Consumer Tips from the Better Business Bureau from time to time in your Visitation Valley GRAPEVINE.

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March 31 Deadline for \$1,000 Human Relations Award

The San Francisco Foundation is accepting nominations through March 31st for the 26th annual San Francisco Foundation Award. This \$1,000 award honors an individual who has improved human relations in the Bay Area counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco and/or San Mateo.

The award was established in 1963 to recognize extraordinary and constructive accomplishments in helping people live and work together, neither ignoring their differences, nor allowing those

differences to become a source of contention. The Foundation's Awards Committee will look for a person who has an awareness of a community problem involving conflicting interests, who has met the challenge of this situation and who has been instrumental in bringing about mutual understanding and cooperation in an effective or innovative way.

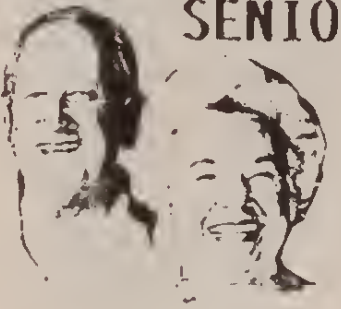
Last year's recipient of The San Francisco Foundation Award was Eleanor Curry, civic leader in San Mateo County and Public Affairs Director at KSOL Radio. Other past winners include David Yamakawa, Jr., Barbara Cross, Dr. Moses Grossman, Florette Pomeroy, Leandro Soto and Earl Raab.

Nominations must be submitted by March 31, 1988. For nomination forms or further information call The San Francisco Foundation's Awards Office at (415)392-0600 ext. 26.

GRAPEVINE staff has openings

GRAPEVINE is looking for an outgoing, self-motivated, hot-shot who can sell advertising. If you need supplemental income and care about your community, advertising sales might be the answer for you. Part-time, permanent sales work will bring you a small but reliable income by commission on sales of advertising in your community newspaper: THE VISITACION VALLEY GRAPEVINE. Call Managing Editor for an interview at 731-2859. We offer an opportunity to learn a new profession!

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INVENTION CONVENTION FACT SHEET

1. 1988 is the second year that San Francisco has competed in INVENT AMERICA!, a nationwide educational program, which fosters creativity in students across America.
2. Over 40 San Francisco Schools are participating in the INVENT AMERICA! program and Invention Convention in San Francisco.
3. The award-winning inventions from each school will be on display Friday, March 4, 1-5 p.m. and Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the California Academy of Sciences.
4. Students will be available to demonstrate their inventions on March 4 from 1-2 p.m.
5. An Awards program, announcing district winners, will be held on March 4 from 2-3 p.m.
6. More than \$1,000,000 in prizes will be awarded to winning students, teachers, schools, school districts, and state departments of education.
7. Sponsored by U.S. Patent Model Foundation.

Speaking of Health

By Jacqueline Wasserman, RN, FNP

Death may be result of unsafe sex practices

It is felt that the most at risk population for AIDS in the future is teenagers. It is difficult for teens to realize that their actions today may result in a particular consequence later. They exist in the moment, experiencing the new feelings that go with developing sexuality.

As a result, practicing safe sex techniques is not something that occurs to them much, as individuals, or with their partners. It is a time of taking risks. In this case, however, they are courting death.

Among teenage girls, the most popular form of birth control is the pill. It is easy to take, convenient, and leaves one open to the spontaneity of sex without having to plan for protection - especially by relying on one's partner.

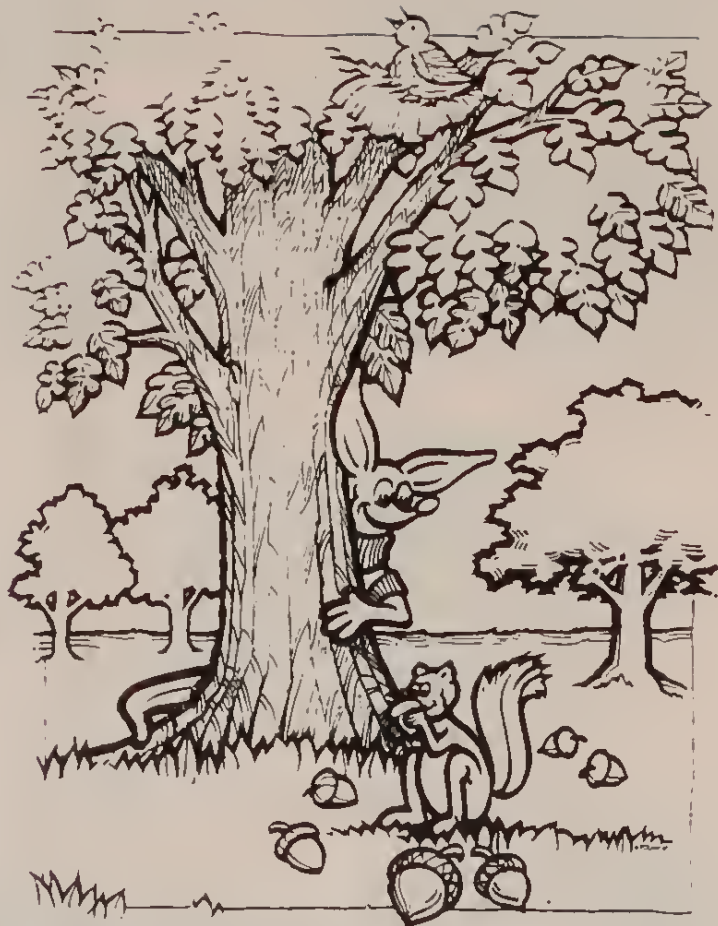
With so many "babies having babies" it is to be applauded when a teenage girl takes the pill to prevent pregnancy. Now, with AIDS present in all of our lives, the pill is not enough.

Pregnancy is only one of several risks in experiencing a sexual encounter. Sexually transmitted

diseases such as gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomonas, syphilis, and AIDS are all potential hazards.

There is only one form of protection again them: condoms. That requires several processes for a teenager. For the girl she must insist that her partner wear a condom - either by providing one for him or otherwise demanding he provide his own. The boy must agree that he too is at risk and to protect himself and his partner, be willing to wear one.

It is up to each of us to educate our teenagers to respect themselves and each other. Safe sex is a beginning and hopefully the start towards a healthy future.



Trees provide food and homes.

Grapevine Puzzler

SOLUTION NEXT ISSUE

ARBOR DAY

CREATED BY ANNE KAARTUNEN

Words may overlap and letters may be used more than once.

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WORD LIST

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CALENDAR

MAR. 9: SPEAK OUT FOR CHILDREN - Mayor Art Agnos with Coleman Services for Children at Horace Mann School, 23rd & Bartlett Streets, 6:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Public is invited.

MAR 10: Visitacion Valley Merchants Association meets at Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue at 6:00 p.m.

MAR. 12: FLORENCE FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL FUND DINNER; 6:00 p.m. at Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue. Reservations required. Suggested donation \$10.00. Everyone is welcome. Call 467-6400.

MAR. 16: Little Hollywood Improvement Association meets.

MAR. 25: Visitacion Valley Improvement Club meets at Community Center, 62 Raymond Avenue at 7:00 p.m.

APR. 7 & 14: S. F. Community College offers free workshop on "Planning & Coordination of Special Events" designed for volunteers and staff of nonprofit organizations.

Pre-registration required. Write Gerry Murphy, Program Supervisor, Mission Community College, 106 Bartlett Street, San Francisco 94110 for information.

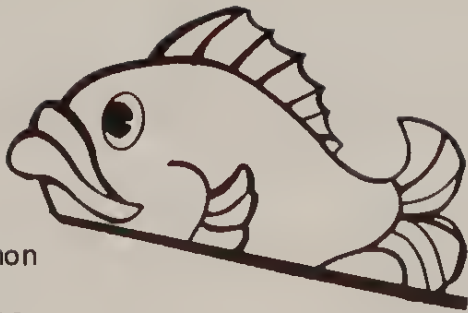
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A fish tale

by Gerry L. Galvan



The long awaited 1988 salmon fishing season opened on Feb. 12th when hundreds of Bay Area fishermen converged as early as 7:00 o'clock in the morning at Farrallones gulf.

To make the day frustrating, close to fifty per cent of the fish taking a nibble at the bait managed to unhook themselves from the fishermen's lines and got away. Either the Feb. 12th season start was a natural mistake (salmon fishing season has normally been from Feb. 15th to Nov. 15th every year), or the fishermen were lethargic from their three month rest, but it was certain salmon outsmarted many of them.

In any case, whatever scientific or superstitious excuse caused a bad start on that memorable Feb. 12, 1988, many hook and line enthusiasts went home empty-handed.

Your reporter, after spending almost fifty dollars and seven hours on the deep waters of Farrallones gulf, went home with not even a fish bone. Only the stink from the anchovies which were used as bait was what the wife got for the day's catch. Few occasions could be as disappointing as that February 12, 1988 after preparing for three solid months; waking up at 4:00 o'clock in the morning; driving to Fisherman's Wharf; rocking along for one hour and 15 minute speedboat trip to the fishing ground to come home empty handed.

There were 20 "fishermen" in our boat, "Quite a Lady" owned by skipper Bill Miner. Bill was telling us, his 18 "regulars", that he expected to see all of us hit, hook and reel in at least one salmon each, if not the maximum of two. He was euphoric when he said, "Folks, remember today is the start of the season. The fish are out there waiting to swallow our bait and you know what that means."

Just about everything we did seemed to be a mistake. we were dipping to only 35 feet at most when we should be reeling out our weighted hooks to 50 feet at least. At one instance, against the advice

of Skipper Miner and deckhand Aughney, I added 15 feet to my depth and got a hit, the first for the group after almost an hour of trial and error bait-ins. My hit was followed by a similar hit by the guy next to me on the deck.

We both lost our salmon as we reeled them in. Our lines tangled against each other so badly that we not only lost the expensive weights on our lines but also gave both fish the opportunity to get away from us.

I didn't make a single hit after that twin disaster. However only six fishermen in our trip hooked and reeled in a salmon each before we called it a day by 1:30 in the afternoon, and one was fortunate enough to hit, hook and reel in a second salmon.

It appeared that fishermen who ventured into greater depth of the ocean got better results. For instance, somewhere at Half Moon Bay, a sportsfishing boat called "The Red Baron" which went out with 16 people brought back to dry land 30 salmon.

Private boaters who have mastered deepwater techniques fared just as well as the "Red Baron" that Feb. 12th. But hundreds of fishermen who joined Bill Miner's "Quite A Lady" at Farrallones Gulf experienced the same frustration that we did.

One of Visitacion Valley's most successful fishermen has been Harry Herman. During a fishing trip with Bill Miner early in 1987, Harry hooked and reeled in a 47 pounder which he and his wife, Elsie, had smoked. Mr. Herman's 47 pounder has been a record in the books which, up to now, has not been broken yet.

Harry was not with us for the season's opener Feb. 12th. He and Elsie were vacationing in New Zealand when the season started. I will bet my GRAPEVINE pay on this article that he will be out fishing at Farrallones immediately after jetting in from down under the equator.

that the writers want change in the administration."

To date, the four top administrators at Wilson all belong to the minority: Mrs. Elvira Dundy, the principal is Black; the assistant principal for personnel services is also Black; Mrs. Juliet Montevirgin who is assistant principal for Administration is Filipino. Gilbert Archuleta, an Hispanic, is vice principal for curriculum.

The GRAPEVINE source said that the letter writers used the subtle trick of reference by association in their campaign. They picked stage dramatization lines from Shakespeare's Macbeth to press on their point. This is what is widely known in Filipino language as "parinig" whereby someone's attention is called

How Do Your Gardens Grow?

By Hyoka Bells



PLANT FROM SEED:

Vegetables: beets, carrots, garlic sets, onion sets, peas, potatoes, radishes, salsify, chard sets, spinach, turnips. **Flowers:** nasturtiums, herbs, and flowering perennials.

TRANSPLANT: Vegetables:

bok choy, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chard, chives, collards, corn salad (mache), endive, escarole, leeks, lettuce, lovage, onions, rocket salad, rutabaga, scallions, spinach. **Flowers:** calendula, larkspur, linaria, nemesia, pansies, violas, snapdragons and stock.

START IN FLATS: Vegetables:

broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celeriac, celery, cucumbers, eggplant, leeks, lettuce, New Zealand spinach, onions, parsnips, okra, parsley, peppers, rutabagas, scallions, spinach, and tomatoes (early varieties) **Flowers:** asters, calendula, herbs, marigolds, and zinnias.

FERTILIZE: perennial flowers, vegetable beds, citrus trees, and spring bulbs.

PRUNE: after blooming: quince, flowering plum, and lilac

LIFT AND DIVIDE: daisies, daylilies, campanula, and dianthus

ROOT: new chrysanthemum cuttings.

It is now time to dig in or compost your cover crops, as well as double digging spring beds.

Double digging is a method of turning the soil to let in air, increases moisture retention, and in general loosening the soil so your plants have room, air and water to grow.

Double digging is best done after a rain, but when the soil is

dry enough so you do not compact it. But like most of us today, we are usually busy at that time, and when we finally get in to our gardens, our soil is hard and compact. So you now have to soften the ground. Water works best, soak the ground, let it sink in, remember you need to water deep, so soak deep the day before you dig. Now that you are ready to dig, you will need a sharp shovel, and a digging fork if you have one. I have an English digging fork which I just love. But if you do not have one you can do this process fine with a shovel.

First define an area to be dug, or start at one end of a raised bed. Facing the end of the bed or area, start to remove the dirt a shovel depth (you can put this dirt in a pile at the other end of your area or bed). Do this all the way across the back. Now what you have in front of you is a trench as deep as a shovel. Next you need to fluff the soil at the bottom of the trench as deep as a shovel. This is where a digging fork comes in handy. You can break up the clots and fluff the earth. This also gives you the opportunity to remove any large rocks, glass, or any other foreign objects you might find.

Next you need to repeat the above process, but instead of removing the dirt to a pile, you fluff and break up any lumps onto the first row. You now have to continue down to the end and when you reach the end, the pile from the beginning is waiting to be added to the last row.

I always add one or more of the following, fish emulsion, compost, and bone meal. This way I fertilize and aerate the soil, all at once. Double digging does make your soil rise. So do not step or walk on your hard work, this only compacts it. So happy digging.

GARDEN PLOTS ARE AVAILABLE

in the VVCC Community Garden call Hyoka 467-6400

Venom continued from Page 1

taken custody of the evidence.

Two members of Wilson High School staff who requested anonymity told the GRAPEVINE that the letters were written not by pranksters who have nothing worthwhile to spend their time on.

"The writers are veteran teachers who have had the ambition to become administrators but failed to realize their dream," the informant said. "They could also be paraprofessionals."

The suspected letter writers are monolingual white educators who view the promotion of the Blacks, Hispanics and Asians to higher position in the school district, in general, and Wilson High School in particular as a slap on their faces. "The tone of the letters indicate

without directly referring to him or her.

In other words, the letter writers preyed on the sensitivity of the objects to bring their message across. To some extent, their trick worked. The message got through. SFUSD reacted in its own way.

SFUSD superintendent Ramon Cortines ordered an investigation of the whole affair. "It is a communication problem that can easily be solved." The Board of Education has given the superintendent full authority to dig into the matter.

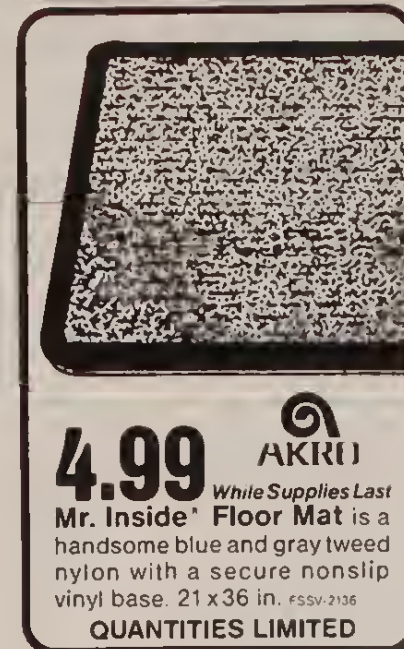
School board commissioner Roderick McLeod told the GRAPEVINE that the full support thrown behind Superintendent Cortines was warranted considering the nature of the problem. "It appears to be purely an administrative problem which Mrs. Dundy is capable of solving easily," Mr. McLeod said.

Commissioner McLeod grew up in the neighborhood. His family lived in a house very near Wilson

High so that he knows the surrounding area quite well. He was never a Woodrow Wilson high school student, though. His mother, the late Mrs. Julia Tamondong McLeod, however, served as principal in various elementary schools in San Francisco, two of which, Bret Hart and Paul Revere schools, have catered to the same ethnic, racial and cultural conglomeration as Woodrow Wilson high school.

At Wilson, there are 22 nationalities represented by the 1375 students who are served by 86 certificated teachers.

"So you can readily see from our diverse makeup here at Wilson that slight misunderstanding brought about by miscommunication can come about," said Mrs. Dundy during the interview at her principal's office. Expressing gratitude for Mr. Cortines' and Commissioner's McLeod's interest in the issue, she concluded with these words, "Calm would continue to prevail in this school."



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